THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue have informed that in terms of Section 44AB of the Income Tax Act, 1961, every person carrying a business, including cable operator, is required to get its accounts audited by an accountant before the specified date, if its total sales, turnovers, or gross receipts in business exceed Rs. 40 lakh in any previous year. Department of Revenue have informed that the total income accruing to the Government from various private cable television operators is not centrally maintained.

Hundred per cent Television Coverage

4152. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has developed adequate capabilities (both technology-wise and infrastructure-wise) for bringing the entire population under television coverage as the Planning Commission has made this a condition to approve funds for the Tenth Five year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame within which hundred per cent television coverage would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has the capability to set up the requisite facilities utilizing appropriate technology for providing TB coverage to the entire population of the country, subject to availability of requisite funds.

(b) In terrestrial mode, TV coverage is available to about 89.6% population of the country (including the population in rural and remote areas) and it is expected to become available to about 91.3% population, on commissioning of on-going transmitter projects. It is the constant endeavour of DD to provide TV coverage in uncovered areas for which alternative technology options have also been included in the 10th Plan. No time frame for achieving cent percent coverage can be indicated.

Ban on Pre and Exit Polls

4153. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to ban pre and exit polls opinions as they unnecessarily influence the voters and create confusion among the people;